

Claims

Claims 1-37 (Canceled)

38. (New) An apparatus used in an industrial process in conjunction with a central control unit and a bus for connecting the apparatus to the central control unit, the apparatus having memorized software which is a specification of the apparatus containing a mimic image of the apparatus, said mimic image including parameters, functionalities and programs of the apparatus, wherein said memorized software is loadable from the apparatus into the central control unit via the bus to provide the central control unit with said specification of the apparatus.

39. (New) The apparatus as defined in claim 38, wherein said software is formulated in a uniform program language with which said functionality and said parameters of the apparatus can be explicitly simulated in the control unit.

40. (New) The apparatus as defined in claim 38, wherein said software is memorized in a version permitting optimum use to be made of the available memory capacity in the apparatus.

41. (New) The apparatus as defined in claim 38, further having a data carrier, said software is memorizable on said data carrier and usable by a software program in the control unit.

42. (New) A plant including:

at least one apparatus having memorized software which is a specification of the apparatus containing a mimic image of the apparatus, the mimic image including

parameters, functionalities and programs of the apparatus;

a bus; and

a central control unit connected to each apparatus via said bus, wherein the software of each apparatus being loadable into said central control unit so that the operation of the plant can be simulated by testing all parameters and functionalities in said software.

43. (New) The plant as defined in claim 42, wherein said software are modifiable by said central control unit depending on the result of simulation.

44. (New) A method of simulating the operation of a plant including at least one apparatus having memorized software which is a specification of the apparatus containing a mimic image of the apparatus, the mimic image including parameters, functionalities and programs of the apparatus, a bus and a central control unit connected to each apparatus via said bus, comprising the steps of:

loading the software of the apparatuses to be employed in the plant into the central control unit; and

simulating the operation of the plant by including all parameters and functionalities contained in the software by means of a software program sequenced in the control unit.

45. (New) The method as defined in claim 44, further comprising the step of:
modifying any apparatus by the central control unit as a function of the result of said simulation.

46. (New) A control unit and a bus, connected to at least one apparatus used in an industrial process via said bus, wherein said control unit memorizing a software, said software

being a specification of said at least one apparatus containing a mimic image of said at least one apparatus including parameters, functionalities and programs of said at least one apparatus, said software providing said control unit with said specification of said at least one apparatus.

47. (New) The control unit as defined in claim 46, wherein said software is loaded from said apparatus into said central unit via said bus.

48. (New) The control unit as defined in claim 47, wherein said control unit is connected via said bus with a plurality of apparatuses used in said industrial process.
